

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, EAGR, SW, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF RICHARD CHAVEZ, UNITED FARM WORKERS (AFL-CIO)
IN CALIFORNIA GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 30 (NOTAL) (B) STOCKHOLM A-56, 2/13/73
(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: RICHARD CHAVEZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF UNITED FARM WORKERS (UFW, AFL-CIO), VISITED STOCKHOLM JANUARY 8-9 TO PROMOTE SWEDISH BOYCOTT OF NON-UFW CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE. CHAVEZ MET WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS, IMPORTERS, CONSUMER COOPERATIVES AND THE PRESS. NOTING THAT SWEDEN IS MAJOR IMPORTER OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE, CHAVEZ APPEALED FOR SUPPORT OF UFW DOMESTIC BOYCOTT BY DENYING RICH OVERSEAS MARKET TO GROWERS. MAINTAINED US BOYCOTT IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY, BUT INTERNATIONAL BACKSTOPPING NEEDED. CHAVEZ RECEIVED MUCH SYMPATHY AND FAVORABLE PUBLICITY
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BUT NO RPT NO PROMISE OF ORGANIZED SWEDISH BOYCOTT IN FACE OF

WHAT SWEDES CONSIDER TO BE CONFUSING SITUATION. PRO-UFW CAMPAIGN EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WITHIN TRADE UNIONS AND CONSUMER COOPERATIVES AND IN GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC PRESS BUT WITH LIMITED EFFECT. END OF SUMMARY.

2. RICHARD CHAVEZ OF UNITED FARM WORKERS (UFW, AFL-CIO) VISITED STOCKHOLM JANUARY 8-9 TO PROMOTE BOYCOTT OF NON-UFW CALIFORNIA LETTUCE AND GRAPES. STOCKHOLM PROGRAM ARRANGED BY SWEDISH FARM WORKERS UNION AND UFW LOCAL REP VICTOR PESTOFF. MEETINGS HELD WITH SWEDISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (LO), FARM WORKERS, RETAIL CLERKS, AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNIONS, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE IMPORTERS, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS.

3. UNION REPRESENTATIVES SYMPATHETIC TO CHAVEZ PLEA, BUT OFFERED NO RPT NO ENCOURAGEMENT AS TO ORGANIZED BOYCOTT. TOLD CHAVEZ THAT SYMPATHY BOYCOTT IS PERMISSIBLE IN SWEDEN ONLY IF PRIMARY DISPUTE IS RECOGNIZED IN HOME COUNTRY AS LEGAL LABOR CONFLICT BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES. THREE-WAY NATURE OF UFW-TEAMSTERS-GROWERS CONTROVERSY APPARENTLY DOES NOT RPT NOT MEET DEFINITION. UNIONS ASSURED CHAVEZ THEY WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO OTHERWISE SUPPORT UFW CAMPAIGN, BUT LO SPOKESMAN PUBLICLY EXPRESSED DIFFICULTY IN FINDING EFFECTIVE COURSE OF ACTION. UNIONS WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLICIZE UFW CAMPAIGN IN UNION JOURNALS, URGING MEMBERS TO AVOID NON-UFW CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE. LIMITED ACTION MAY REDUCE CONSUMPTION THESE ITEMS, BUT WILL BE MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE THAN PICKETING AND REFUSAL TO OFFLOAD WHICH UFW WANTS.

4. PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 8 ATTENDED BY 20 JOURNALISTS. CHAVEZ AND PESTOFF PAINTED BLACK PICTURE OF 800,000 FIELD HANDS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE WITH HALF OF THESE BETWEEN 10 AND 13, 49 YEAR LIFE SPAN, FOUR-FIFTHS OF FIELDWORKERS SUFFERING FROM INSECTICIDE POISONING, GENERALLY MISERABLE LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS. PAST AND PRESENT UFW ORGANIZING EFFORTS AND UFW-TEAMSTER DISPUTE REVIEWED WITH TEAMSTERS LABELED AS "FOREIGN" AND "NON-REPRESENTATIVE" UNION. PICKET LINE RESTRICTIONS AND VIOLENCE, CULMINATING IN DEATH OF TWO UFW PICKETS AND ARREST OF 4,500 OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CITED AS GROWER AND TEAMSTER-DIRECTED TACTICS WHICH HAD UNDERMINED UFW AT THE WORK SITE. CHAVEZ SAID UNDER CLOSE QUESTIONING THAT RACISM LAY BEHIND GROWERS DECISION TO SIGN WITH TEAMSTERS. QUESTIONS OF JOURNALISTS INDICATED PRIMARY INTEREST LAY IN DEFINING UFW-TEAMSTER RELATIONSHIP IN PESTICIDE ISSUE.

5. PESTOFF CLAIMED BROAD SUPPORT FOR BOYCOTT, SHOWING

COLLECTION OF SWEDISH PETITIONS URGING BOYCOTT, ONE OF WHICH SIGNED BY PRIMIN PALME. SAID FORMAL ACTION SHOULD FOLLOW EXPRESSION OF POPULAR SUPPORT.

6. PRESS CONFERENCE LEFT UFW TRACK WITH UNEXPECTED ENTRANCE OF ROBERT ZWARTKRUIS, MAJOR IMPORTER AND CHIEF PUBLIC REBUTTER TO UFW CHARGES (REF B). ALTHOUGH NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR FOR ONLY CALIFORNIA GROWER EXPORTING UFW LETTUCE TO SWEDEN, SWARTKRUIS CHALLENGED CHAVEZ ON MANY POINTS, PARTICULARLY CHILD LABOR, SANITARY FACILITIES, INSECTICIDE USE AND PROTECTION, ALLEGED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UFW AND TEAMSTER CONTRACTS. ZWARTKRUIS DIRECTED PARTICULARLY STRONG CRITICISM AT PESTOFF WHOM HE ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN UNBOUNDED AND UNJUSTIFIED HATE AND SCARE CAMPAIGN WHICH IS INJURING ENTIRE SWEDISH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TRADE. ALTHOUGH PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO UFW EFFORTS, ZWARTKRUIS MAINTAINED SWEDISH PUBLIC BEING FED ON-SIDED PICTURE AND THAT SALVATION OF US FARMWORKERS LAY WITH US TRADE UNIONS AND LEGISLATION, NOT IN SWEDEN. ZWARTKRUIS IN TURN ACCUSED BY PESTOFF OF DISSEMINATING FALSE INFO RE BOYCOTT IN US. ZWARTKRUIS INTERVENTION NOTED IN SOME, BUT NOT ALL PRESS ACCOUNTS, USUALLY WITH DISPARAGING COMMENT THAT HE WAS "UNINVITED" TO PRESS CONFERENCE AND IS REPRESENTATIVE OF "EXPLOITING" CLASS. MAJORITY OF MEDIA COVERAGE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO UFW, EVEN WHEN NOTING THAT TRANSLATION OF SYMPATHY INTO CONCRET ACTION WILL BE DIFFICULT.

7. IN CONVERSATION FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTER FOR FAR-LEFT "FOLKET I BILD" MAGAZINE TOLD CHAVEZ INSECTICIDE RESIDUE ON IMPORTED LETTUCE GREAT ISSUE FOR PROMOTING BOYCOTT FOR HEALTH REASONS. WHEN INFORMED BY LABATT - REPORTER DID NOT RECOGNIZE - THAT TESTING BY CONSUMER COOPERATIVE LABORATORIES HAS SHOWN NO RPT NO TRACE OF INSECTICIDES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTER SUGGESTED PLANTING POISONED SPECIMENS IN DESIGNATED SHIPMENTS TO EXCITE PUBLIC OPINION, A SUGGESTION QUICKLY DISMISSED.

8. CHAVEZ MEETING WITH IMPORTERS JANUARY 9 ALSO MARKED BY EXPRESSIONS OF UNDERSTANDING BUT NO RPT NO COMMITMENTS EXCEPT FOR DECISION BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONSUMER COOPERATIVE TO ACTIVELY PUSH "EAGLE BRAND"
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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